



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S COLUMN

EDITION 108

MONDAY 16 MAY 2022

Welcome to edition 108 of our Clerk's Column circulated as usual to the 490 residents on our Residents' Forum email list and through the Chronicle's page 4.

TOWN MAYOR 2022-23

Monday evening's Annual Town Council Meeting unanimously appointed Councillor Steph Toogood to



the role of Town Mayor and therefore Chair of the Town Council for the coming 12 months having served as Deputy Mayor for the past year.

Last year's Mayor, Stephen Cockett, was unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor for this year. Other appointments included Councillor Phil Warren as Chair of our Planning Committee and Councillor Ian Bond as Staffing Committee Chair.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This meeting that followed the short Annual Town Council Meeting was a celebration of Ventnor's amazing range of voluntary organisations with short presentations of their work by the Wellbeing Café, Ventnor Community Shed, Ventnor Heritage Museum, Ventnor Enhancement Fund, our Youth Club, the Flower Fairy, Ventnor Community Foodbank, Baby Box and the Carnival. We also welcomed the Principal of St Catherine's School and College's outline of their remarkable work.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday's meeting of our Planning Committee supported five of the seven applications on its Agenda. The application for change of use of the former Waterside Café on the Esplanade to two residential buildings however was strongly opposed as *It is incompatible with the Isle of Wight Council's Core Strategy Policies. Ventnor Town Council would like to see it return to a successfully run business ...to prevent the detrimental effect of amenities on the seafront.* The Isle of Wight Council granted it prior planning approval on Friday. The Committee said it would support a rear extension at 1a Southgrove Terrace *subject to approval from Building Regulations ...regarding limited space, access, and egress for safety reasons.*

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Tonight's Town Council meeting will receive the Income and Expenditure Accounts for the financial year 2021/22. These include adjustments to include expenditure that will be made this year but was for activities in last year and exclude income received last year that is actually for activity this year.

They show income during 2021/22 for that year's work to have been £521,333 with expenditure arising from that activity totalling £547,802. The resulting deficit for the year represents an investment of part of the surplus produced during 2020/21 of £43,394.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The other items on the Agenda for this May meeting of the Town Council are the April Finance Report, the North Street Playground, the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum and the Town Clerk's report. All the papers for the meeting are available from our web site [here](#).

SOUTH WIGHT SEVENS

Next Saturday Ventnor's Rugby Club is holding what its Secretary tells us will be *the biggest rugby event the Island has ever witnessed* with 16 elite teams with representation from Fiji, South Africa and Nigeria.

Tickets from www.southislandsevns.co.uk but not at the gate on the day.

MAY LITTER PICK

Upper Ventnor proved a challenge this month with 6 full bags plus various larger items collected by Ventnor town councillors



Mark Jefferies and Dave Logan together with County councillor Rodney Downer.

VIA MY TWITTER FEED LAST WEEK

- A [Food Foundation](#)'s Press Release: 'In April, 7.3 million adults live in households that said they had gone without food or could not physically get it in the past month, which include 2.6 million children ... compared with 4.7 million adults in January.'
- Here's the latest version of the [Johns Hopkins University](#)'s chart of confirmed Covid-19 deaths per million population comparing a range of countries.